

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Yaz Liow, and I am a student at Yale University.

I stand in support of HB 6616 and the effort to expand access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status and age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving, and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage. Expanding access to HUSKY is an important step towards this future.

Currently, despite paying over half a billion dollars in taxes annually, undocumented immigrants are barred from accessing the very programs their taxes fund, like HUSKY. As a result, 58% of the 113,000 undocumented immigrants in Connecticut are uninsured, a vast number in comparison to the 5.9% uninsured rate for all across Connecticut. This is a clear disparity in coverage and a health equity issue.

There is overwhelming evidence that increasing access to healthcare would greatly improve health outcomes in all aspects: fewer premature deaths, improvements in overall self-reported care, improved mental health and lower stress, better management of chronic conditions. According to the National Commission on Prevention Policies, 100,000 deaths could be averted each year just by improving the delivery of five preventive services.

I support expanding HUSKY to all regardless of age and immigration status, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Yaz Liow